

Governors Island, Commanding Officer's House
(Quarters 1)
Governors Island
New York Harbor
New York City
New York County
New York

HABS No. NY-5715-3

HABS
NY,
3-GOV,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HABS
NY
31-GOV,
3-
(Page 1)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE HABS NO. NY-5715-3
(Quarters 1)

Location: East side of Nolan Park, west of Barry Road, Governors Island, New York Harbor, New York, New York.

Present Owner: United States Coast Guard

Present Occupant: Vice Admiral and Mrs. Wayne E. Caldwell

Present Use: Residence for Commander of the Third Coast Guard District

Significance: Throughout its history, the Commanding Officer's House which was designed by Martin E. Thompson one of New York's leading architects, has been a key structure on the Governors Island military post. From its construction in 1843 to the present, the building has served as quarters for the Island's ranking officer. From 1843 to 1878, this was the post Commander. Between 1878 and 1966, Commanders of major Army commands, including that of the First Army, occupied the house. Men prominent in United States military history number among the building's occupants. Since 1966, the building has been quarters for the Third Coast Guard District Commander. The building also contributes to the 19th and early 20th century character of the Nolan Park residential area, a grouping of single and double officers' quarters clustered around a landscaped park.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: The main block was built in 1843 (Plans for Commanding Officer's House, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Columbus, New York, Series A, #5). The southeast addition was built in 1886 (Plans for an Addition to General Schofield's House, Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence File 1794-1915, #4519/1886; Lord to Assistant Adjutant General, November 3, 1886.
2. Architect: The main block was designed by Martin E. Thompson (ca. 1786-1877), one of New York City's most important Greek Revival architects. Thompson was first listed in New York City directories in 1816 as a carpenter. After possibly studying under local architect Thomas R. Brady, Thompson set up his own practice in the early 1820s. One of his earliest designs was for the Second Bank of the United States (1822-1823), the facade of which is now on the south front of the Metropolitan Museum of

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 2)

Art's American Wing. Later designs included the Merchant Exchange (1827), Columbia Grammar School (1829), the Robert Ray Mansion at 17 Broadway, the Church of the Ascension (1828), the steeple of St. Mark's in the Bowery (1835), the James Lenox summer home at New Hamburg, New York (1837) and a number of private residences in New York City. Between 1827 and 1828, Thompson and the well-known architect Ithiel Town were partners. Thompson's interests and career were not limited to architecture. He was one of thirty founders of the National Academy of Design in 1826, and from 1847 to 1850, he served as street commissioner for the city of New York (Dictionary of American Biography, vol. 18, p. 467).

No architect's name appears on the plans for the south addition. It may have been designed by the Quartermaster's Office.

3. Original and subsequent owners: The United States Army was the original owner. Ownership was transferred to the United States Coast Guard in 1966.
4. Builder: According to General Order No. 8 published July 29, 1938, the house was built by members of the Ordnance and Quartermaster Corps.
5. Original plans and construction:

A set of plans for the Commanding Officer's House was submitted in November of 1842 (Bankhead to Jones, November 9, 1842). The plans designed by architect Martin E. Thompson were for a two-story brick house with two-story front and rear colonnaded piazzas and one-story wings at either side of the main block (Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Columbus, New York, Series A, #5). Thompson estimated the cost at \$10,000 with the wings and \$8,000 without them. A second drawing minus the two wings was submitted nearly a year later (Plate 1). The drawing is located in the Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Columbus, New York, Series A, #5. Construction may already have begun by that time since Martin's account book lists a contract for "houses on Governor's Island" in May 1843 (Romaine, p. 288). The account is not specific enough to determine whether the Commanding Officer's House was one of these though. Another drawing dated 1871 (Plate 2) shows only minor changes from the original plan. This drawing is also in the Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Jay, New York, #22. A cross section featuring interior doors is included in this drawing. It is the only drawing of early interior details.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 3)

6. Alterations and additions: The first recorded alteration to the building occurred sometime between 1849 and 1863. In November 1849, a Board of Officers was convened to examine quarters on the post. The Board reported that the roof on the building leaked although various methods had been tried to render it water-tight. They proposed replacing the metal covering on the roof with slate. Whether the roof was replaced immediately is unknown. A second report dated 1863 does note that the slate roof was entirely new and that the interior walls and ceilings were deteriorated because of leaks from the old roof (Inspection Report by 1st Lieutenant James L. Casey, October 31, 1863). This may indicate that the old metal roof had only recently been replaced with slate. Sometime between 1886 and 1918, the roof was changed once again. The slate was replaced by a standing seam metal roof (Plate 3).

The next recorded change was a two-and-one-half story wing added to the southeast side of the house in 1886. Efforts to enlarge the house began at least by 1882 when an inspection report noted:

The Commanding General's Quarters, built 40 years ago, is a brick building with a slate roof, very much out of repair. The front and back porches are so rotten that they should be taken down at once. Lumber is on hand to rebuild them, but owing to the lack of servants rooms and the poor condition of the floors, doors and windows throughout the house it is thought best to delay all work until plans can be made for raising the roof and remodeling the whole structure, which will be done at once...The \$1000 authorized for erecting a separate building for servants has not been used, nor will it be if the contemplated changes are made to the Main Building; which will give sufficient room for servants, and, at the same time, put in proper repair an old building that has been allowed to run down for want of funds. (Bird to Quartermaster General, April 8, 1882)

The alterations referred to in the report were designed by New York architect Charles Edwards (Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Jay, New York, #39-46). Probably because of a lack of funds, no alterations were made until 1886 when plans for a less ambitious two-and-one-half story addition (Plates 4-6) were submitted by the Quartermaster's Office. The plans were prepared hastily so that funds on hand at the end of the previous fiscal year could be used. As a result, minor alterations totalling nearly \$273 were made during construction of the addition (Lord to Assistant Adjutant General, November 3, 1886). The final cost of the addition and repairs to the main block was \$6,277.80 (Lord to the Quartermaster General, March 31, 1887).

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 4)

At some point after 1886, the house was once again altered. An undated photograph (Plate 7) illustrates a more dramatic change to the house which totally altered its appearance on the west facade. The porch roof was raised, and the lattice-like posts supporting it were replaced by Tuscan columns. A balustrade was placed on top of the porch roof. The date of this change was not pinpointed but based on early photographs it was between 1893 and 1918.

The house underwent extensive work in 1936-1937. In 1936 money was allotted under the Works Progress Administration program for a complete renovation of the building. General Order No. 8 published July 29, 1938 outlined the work done at the time.

Mr. Charles O. Cornelius, a specialist in early American architecture, redesigned the first and second floors of the structure, and took off the peaked roof of the addition and tied it into the main structure architecturally. He also redesigned the whole rear of the house, replacing wooden porches with brick, and embellishing with iron work both front and rear. This work was undertaken in May 1936, under the direction of Major Morrill W. Marston, 16th Infantry, Captain Leonard F. Felio, Quartermaster Corps, and Mr. John Slick, Architect of the Works Progress Administration.

Due to the activity of termites and general decay of the wood, the repairs developed into a task of major importance, and the interior of the building was entirely rebuilt. Every effort was made to restore the original character of this building and of its period. Pilasters and moldings, doorway and window frames and sills, as well as floors and wall color schemes, were copied as exactly as possible. Modern appliances and fixtures were installed throughout.

Detailed drawings further document the work which took place during the 1930s (see photo documentation following this report). During the renovation, some of the interior original fabric was saved and reused. The elements saved were the interior and exterior of the front door, the pilasters between the dining room and conservatory to the north and the mantelpieces in the two north bedrooms. These features are noted on the 1930s WPA drawings.

Since the 1930s, the house has undergone few changes. In 1977 the existing steam heating system was renewed with a zoned baseboard hot water system (Facilities Engineering Division Files, Governors Island). The columns and pilasters on the rear porch were removed and replaced with ones made of clear Heart Redwood in 1982 (Ibid).

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 5)

B. Historical Context

The house was constructed in response to a long-standing need for suitable quarters for the post's Commanding Officer. At least since the mid 1820s, a structure originally erected as a guard house (now Building #2), had been used for this purpose. In 1841, a letter to the Assistant Quartermaster General, the newly arrived Commanding Officer Colonel James Bankhead, noted that this building was better suited for its original purpose and that it could not be made tolerably comfortable as quarters during the winter. He suggested moving to a residence in New York City or Brooklyn if none could be found on the Island. Shortly afterwards, the Quartermaster General's Office authorized construction of new quarters (Mackay to Jesup, December 3, 1841). Work on the house was not begun though until 1843 when a set of plans designed by Martin E. Thompson was approved.

Following its completion, the building served as quarters for the post's Commanding Officer until the late 1870s. In 1878 the headquarters of a major Army command, the Division of the Atlantic, were transferred to the Island. At this point, the building became the residence for the headquarters Commander. Over the years, various major Army commands were headquartered on the Island. The last of these, the First Army, left the post in 1966 when the Island was transferred to the United States Coast Guard. Between 1878 and 1966, the house remained quarters for the various headquarters Commanders. These included major military figures such as Major Generals Winfield Scott Hancock, Adna R. Chaffee, Leonard Wood, Robert L. Bullard and Dennis E. Nolan (General Order No. 8, July 29, 1938). Under Coast Guard jurisdiction, the building has continued to serve as quarters for major commanders, those of the Third Coast Guard District.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is essentially square with a symmetrical west or front facade. Alterations during the late 19th or early 20th centuries removed the more decorative lattice-like posts supporting the porch roof and gave the house a Colonial Revival character. The porticos on the west and east sides which feature two-story columns are the most dramatic of elements of this change. Remodeling of the interior altered the floor plan somewhat and left an abundance of classical motifs in details such as the elaborate plaster moldings and door surrounds. Although altered, the house continues to contribute to the small-scale residential character of Nolan Park.
2. Condition of fabric: The house is well maintained and is in good condition throughout.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 6)

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is rectangular in shape and measures 43' x 44'. On the west facade, the main block is five bays wide, and the southern addition is three bays wide. The building is two-and-one-half stories high above a basement. The entire basement is above grade on the rear or east side. The third bay of the southern addition is one story in height.
2. The foundation is stone approximately 1' 8" thick. Footings support the west and east porches.
3. Walls: The first and second story walls of the main block are red brick laid in stretcher bond. The southern addition is red brick laid in 5-1 common bond. Basement walls are red brick laid in 5-1 common bond except on the north side. This wall is coursed granite ashlar with a sandstone water table. The water table on the addition is brick. The walls show evidence of sandblasting.
4. Structural systems and framing: Exterior walls are masonry load bearing averaging approximately 1' 2" thick. Interior load bearing walls run east-west between the main block and the southern addition and north-south between the library and kitchen in the addition. Partition wall are 6". Floor joists are 3" x 12", 16" on center.
5. Porches, stoops: The two-story west entrance portico on the main block consists of six wooden Doric columns supporting an entablature with denticulated cornice. Two Doric pilasters are at either end of the porch. A wooden balustrade with posts above each column and square balusters extends along all three sides of the porch roof. The porch floor is cement covered with red quarry tile. Two decorative wrought iron and glass light fixtures on granite bases flank the steps, and another wrought iron fixture hangs from the portico ceiling in the entrance bay.

The rear or east portico is similar to the west portico. It has a wooden entablature with denticulated cornice and balustrade supported by four wooden Doric columns and one wooden Doric pilaster. The latter is attached to the north wall of the addition. Simple wrought iron balusters and railing are between the columns in the outer four bays. The porch floor is brick. Access to the porch from the ground is by two sets of stairs which have stone treads and landings, brick risers and wrought iron railings and balusters. The stairs terminate in the center bay of the porch. At this point, the balustrade is embellished by a wrought iron geometric motif flanked by two light fixtures on decorative wrought iron stands.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 7)

A one-story porch is situated on the west side of the south addition. Wrought iron posts consisting of four thin square rods and decorative bases with curvilinear motifs support a sloping roof. Square metal balusters and railing run between the supports. This same configuration is repeated in the wrought iron balustrade atop the porch roof. A narrow band below the cornice of the roof is embellished with a Greek key pattern. The porch floor is carpeted. The four steps with brick risers and stone treads are curved. The entire porch has been screened.

On the south side of the house at the kitchen door, is a small entrance porch. The straight run stairs with stone treads, brick risers and metal railing and balusters ends at a stone platform at the door. The door is sheltered by a bell-shaped copper canopy that has been painted black.

6. Chimneys: Two end chimneys are situated at both the north and south ends of the main block to the east and west of the ridge of the roof. Two additional chimneys, one at the ridge and the other at the rear, rise from the roof of the southern addition. All six are brick with corbelled brick caps.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: On the west facade, the main entrance has a six panelled wooden door flanked by pilasters with acanthus leaf capitals. Adjacent to the pilasters are sidelights with tracery and an additional two pilasters. Above the door is glass transom with tracery similar to that of the sidelights. A sandstone lintel is above the transom. A six panelled wooden door with four light transom is in the third bay of the addition.

On the east facade, five eight-light French doors flanked by panelled wooden shutters open onto the rear portico. Each has a sandstone lintel. A six panelled wooden door with stone lintel in the north wall of the addition also opens onto the portico. At the basement level, two brick arched openings with stone keystones and impost blocks lead to the walkway beneath the portico. An identical opening is on the north side of the walkway. A third arch on the east side has been in-filled with brick. A wooden panelled and glass door with stone lintel is located in the second bay of the addition at the basement level.

On the south facade, a wooden and glass door is at the kitchen entrance. The door has a two pane transom and is sheltered by a copper canopy.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 8)

- b. Window and shutters: First floor windows on the west and north facades are full length six-over-nine-light double hung sash flanked by wooden panelled shutters. On the south side, a narrow rectangular four-over-four-light double hung sash window with louvered shutters lights the small entry in the south addition. The remaining first floor windows on the south and east sides are six-over-six-light double hung sash above a wooden panel flanked by panelled shutters.

Sills and lintels are sandstone on the main block and precast stone on the south wing. Two circular windows with brick surrounds and stone keystones are on either side of the large first floor window in the center bay on the north side.

On the second floor, windows are typically six-over-six-light double hung sash. Those on the west, south and north sides have louvered wooden shutters. Each second story window on the east side of the main block has a wooden panel beneath it and simple wrought iron railing and balusters. The shutters at these windows are louvered and panelled. A half round window with brick surround and stone sill originally having three casements is in the north gable. The central casement has been replaced by a louvered vent. Two quarter round windows ornament the south gable. Each has a precast stone lug sill and brick surround.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roofs of both the main block and the addition are standing seam tin. The ridge is oriented north-south.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The wooden denticulated cornice with boxed eaves on the east and west sides of the addition is continuous with the denticulated cornices of the porticos. The raking cornice on the north and south sides is plain. Gutters are located in the boxed eaves.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Basement: Cross shaped hallways divide the basement floor of the main block into four sections. The central hall formed by the east and west arms of the cross is terminated on the west by a large rectangular storage room situated

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 9)

under the west (front) portico. The east end contains an entrance under the east (rear) portico. This long hallway is divided approximately 1/3 of its length from the western end by a partition wall and door. The north arm of the cross contains the main stair and closed stairhall. Opposite the stairhall on the south side of the central hall is a narrow passage leading to the south wing. Two large storage closets are along the west side of the passage. Storage rooms are located in the northeast and southwest corners of the main block; the boiler room is in the northwest corner and a servants room is in the southeast corner. The hall of the wing is parallel to the south wall of the main block and contains the service stairs. Beginning at the east end, the halls open onto an L-shaped laundry room, a bathroom and closet and a 9' x 12' room with a small bathroom which projects beyond the southern wall of the wing. Two closets open onto the north side of the hall at the west end. The area under the porch on the west side of the wing is unexcavated.

- b. First Floor: The west or front entrance of the main block opens onto a vestibule which leads to a central hall running east-west. The main staircase is located on the north wall and opens onto a stairhall forming an L at the east end of the central hall. A game room with a lavatory and closet is in the northwest corner. To the east of the stair hall is a conservatory and a bathroom. A rectangular dining room oriented north-south terminates the central hall on the east. Sliding doors separate the dining room and the drawing room which is in the southwest corner of the main block. In the south wing, are a screened porch on the west, the library in the center and a pantry and kitchen on the east. A small service area with a staircase is between the library and the pantry. Access to the library from the main block is through doors in both the drawing room and dining room. A square entry room with a closet located to south of the library provides access to the exterior on the west side of the wing.
- c. Second floor: A hallway running north-south with the main staircase on the north bisects the second floor of the main block. Two openings separate the hall into three sections. Bedrooms open off the hall in the northeast, northwest and southwest corners of the main block. Each has a separate bathroom. In the southeast corner is a large dressing room connected to the northeast bedroom by a passage. The south end of the main hall opens onto a bedroom at the west end of the wing. The remainder of the wing, which is two steps below the level of the main block, consists of a bedroom in the southeast corner, a bathroom

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 10)

in the northeast corner and the service stairs adjacent to the main block on the north. A hall oriented north-south and another running east-west provide access to the rooms in the wing and to the dressing room in the main block. The service stairs are also joined to the main block through a small room that opens onto the south end of the main hall.

- d. Attic: Access to the attic floor is by the service stairway in the south wing. The stairs lead to an L-shaped hall with the long leg running north-south. A maid's room is at both the north and south ends of the hall. A trunk closet measuring 13' 6" x 14' 5", a smaller closet and a bathroom are along the east side of the long leg of the hall. Four closets, one of which is a cedar closet, are on the west side of the hall.
2. Stairways: The circular main staircase with open well and winders rises in graceful curves from the basement to the second floor level. The thin column-like newel posts, turned balusters and hand rails are wood painted. The stringers are decorated with scrollwork brackets. The stairs are carpeted.

The service stairs on the north wall of the south wing are U-type with winders. The squared newel post, square balusters and railing are painted wood. The stairs approximately 7" x 11" are carpeted. The service stairs rise from the basement to the attic.
3. Flooring: The major rooms on the first and second floors have varnished random width oak flooring. Most rooms are carpeted. Bathroom, kitchen, and pantry floors are linoleum tile. Basement floors are cement with a mixture of linoleum and carpeting. Basement bathroom floors are tile.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are plaster. Walls are typically painted but are wallpapered in the game room and conservatory on the first floor and the southeast bedroom on the second floor. Bathroom walls have a ceramic tile wainscoting. Kitchen and pantry walls are ceramic tile.

Rooms on the first and second floors and the second floor hall exhibit a richness of elaborate, plaster ceiling cornices consisting of egg and dart, leaf and dart and bead and reel motifs. Molding in the library is enlarged with a row of dentils. Plaster moldings in the second floor bedrooms are much simpler with curvilinear forms and no classical motifs.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 11)

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: Doors typically have six panels and a variety of surrounds. Typical surrounds have eared architraves. The vestibule door on the hallway side is flanked by traceried sidelights between paneled pilasters with acanthus leaf capitals. The pilasters support a plain architrave and cornice embellished with a bead and reel motif. Above the cornice is a traceried transom. The opening between the central hall and the stairhall is identical except for the sidelights and transom. Doors between the hall and dining room, the hall and drawing room and the upstairs hall and north bedrooms are flanked by paneled pilasters with capitals bearing classical motifs. The pilasters support an architrave and pronounced cornice with a row of beads below it. The broad opening between the drawing room and dining room has paired paneled pilasters on each side that support a plain architrave. Large six panelled doors slide into wall pockets at the sides of the opening.
- b. Windows: Typical window openings are nearly floor length with eared architrave surrounds identical to the typical door surround.

6. Decorative features and trim: Fireplaces in the dining room and library are essentially identical. The mantels are black marble with gold veins. Marble Ionic columns support rectangular blocks and the mantelshelf. The facings are black marble with grey veining. Hearths are black marble. The fireplaces are on the south wall of each room.

The drawing room fireplace is similar. The mantel is dark grey veined marble with black marble columns. The columns support blocks embellished with bulls-eyes. The facing is lighter grey veined marble, and the hearth is black marble. The fireplace is lighter grey veined marble, and the hearth is black marble. The fireplace is situated on the south wall of the drawing room.

The conservatory fireplace located on the north wall is simpler in design. A black and grey veined marble facing has a plain wood surround and hearth of the same marble. There is no mantelshelf.

The game room fireplace is unlike any other in the house. It features decorative cast metal with draped female figures on the sides and a winged male figure across the top. The wood surround is identical to that of the conservatory fireplace. The hearth is grey marble with lighter grey veins. The fireplace is on the north wall.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 12)

Fireplaces in the second floor bedrooms are less elaborate than most on the first floor. Those in the north bedrooms are of light grey veined marble with dark grey and black veined marble facings and quarry tile hearths. Each features an eared architrave. Fireplaces in the southwest bedroom of the main block and the two bedrooms in the addition have similar wooden mantels and brick hearths.

A built in bookcase and cabinet almost entirely covers the east wall of the library. Four arched openings with mirrored backing and shelves are above paneled doors. The sections are separated by thin paneled pilasters. At either end of the bookcase are paneled doors flanked by paneled pilasters with acanthus leaf capitals. The whole is united by a plain architrave and cornice.

7. Hardware: Interior doors on the first floor typically have silver knobs and locks with swivel covers.
8. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: Heating is by a zoned baseboard hot water system. Vents are typically located either on the floor or in the wall below windows. Cooling is by individual window air conditioning units.
 - b. Lighting: Most major first floor rooms are lighted by elaborate chandeliers. The dining room and drawing room have identical ceiling fixtures. Each consists of eight globes of etched glass with stars and swags. Each contains an electric candle. These surround glass shafts encircled by a brass band of leaves and stars. The remainder is decorative brass. Light fixtures in the central hall and the stairway are etched glass suspended on brass chains. The stairway fixture is embellished with floral motifs and swags while the two hall fixtures feature sailing ships.

D. Site:

1. Setting:

The house faces west onto Nolan Park, a landscaped open space crisscrossed by brick sidewalks and surrounded by small-scale 19th and 20th century houses. A brick driveway, which cuts across the Park from Andes Road, circles in front of the house from the south and extends around the north side to Barry Road at the rear of the house. To the west of the drive in front of the house are two cannons facing west across the Park. The rear yard is enclosed along the west side of Barry Road by a line of

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 13)

trees and a hedge. A flagstone path leads from the road to the rear of the house. A redwood fence shelters the south yard from view on the west. The yard on all four sides of the building is planted with grass, trees and shrubbery.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Architectural Drawings:

The following drawings are located in Record Group 77, Maps and Plans of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, in the Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives:

Plans and Elevation of Commanding Officers's Quarters, 1842.
Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Columbus, New York, Series A, #4. Thompson's original plan which included two one-story wings.

Plan and Elevation of Commanding Officers's Quarters, 1843.
Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Columbus, New York, Series A #5.
Thompson's final plan minus the wings.

Plan and Elevation of General's Quarters, undated.
Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Jay, New York, # 18.

Plan and Elevation of Commanding Officer's Quarters, 1871.
Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Jay, New York, #22. Only drawing which illustrates interior details.

Plans and Elevations for an Addition to General Hancock's House, 1882. Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Jay, #s 39-46. This addition was never made.

The following drawing is in the Navy and Old Army Branch of the National Archives, Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1915.

Plans for an Addition to General Schofield's House, 1886. Box 345, Fort Columbus. Plans as built in 1886.

Numerous drawings detailing the extensive work done on the Building during the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration are on file in the U.S. Coast Guard Facilities Engineering Office on Governors Island. These drawings tend to be highly detailed and include floor plans, elevations, framing plans, interior and exterior details and site plans. Photographs of many of these are included in the photo documentation which follows this written data.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 14)

B. Early Views

View From the Northwest, ca. 1864. 165-C-240, Record Group 165, Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, Still Picture Branch, National Archives.

View of the West Side, 1886-ca. 1918. U.S. Coast Guard, Support Center, New York, Special Services Office, Governors Island.

View of the West Side, ca. 1918-1936. U.S. Coast Guard, Support Center, New York, Special Services Office, Governors Island.

C. Bibliography

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

The following documents are in the Navy and Old Army Branch of the National Archives, Record Group 92, Office of the Quartermaster General, Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1915.

Colonel James Bankhead to Assistant Quartermaster General, October 1, 1841. Box 346, Governors Island. Request for authorization to construct new quarters for the post Commanding Officer.

Major A. Mackay to Major General Thomas Jesup, December 3, 1841. Box 346, Governors Island. Notes that authorization received October 22 but work not begun before onset of winter.

Major A. Mackay to Major General Thomas Jesup, February 24, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island. Plan and estimates of house designed by the Quartermaster's Office.

Major A. Mackay to Major General Thomas Jesup, March 8, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island. Includes a plan designed by Minard Lafever.

Colonel James Bankhead to Assistant Quartermaster General, July 6, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island. Indicates work had not begun.

Colonel James Bankhead to Major General Thomas Jesup, September 1, 1842. Box 98, Colonel Jame Bankhead. Further request for construction.

Major A. Mackay to Major General Thomas Jesup, March 5, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island. Design by C.S. Purdy.

Specifications for a building designed by C. S. Purdy, March 2, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, COMMANDING OFFICER'S HOUSE
(Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 15)

Captain J. H. Lord to Assistant Adjutant General, November 3, 1886. Box 191, Fort Columbus. List of minor alterations made during construction of the 1886 addition.

Colonel James Bankhead to Brigadier General R. Jones, November 9, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island.

Report of Board of Officers, Fort Columbus, New York, November 17, 1842. Box 346, Governors Island. Briefly describes problems with the roof.

Office of Post Quartermaster to Quartermaster General, U.S. Army, April 30, 1885. Box 345, Governors Island. Repairs made during the previous year and those needed.

Inspection Report Made on Public Buildings, Officers and Troop Quarters at Fort Columbus New York Harbor, on the 31st day of October 1863 by 1st Lieutenant James L. Casey, 5th Infantry, Acting Assistant Quartermaster U.S. Army. Box 191, Fort Columbus. Lists the number of rooms on each floor, condition of the building and recommended repairs.

Assistant Quartermaster to Quartermaster General, April 8, 1882. Box 191, Fort Columbus. Describes building condition and the need for an addition.

The following sources are on file on Governors Island.

General Orders No. 8 Frank R. McCoy Major General U.S. Army Commanding Second Corps Area. July 29, 1938. Details work done on the house during the Works Progress Administration project.

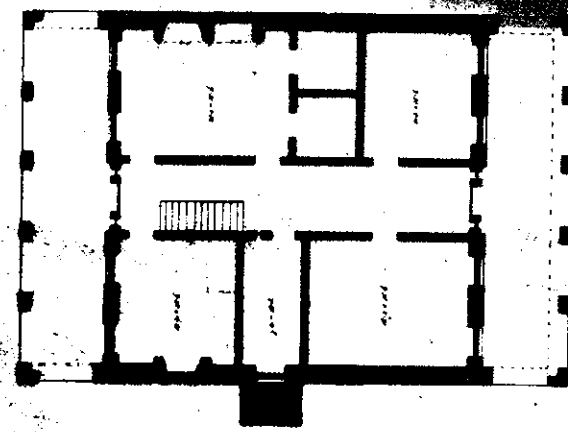
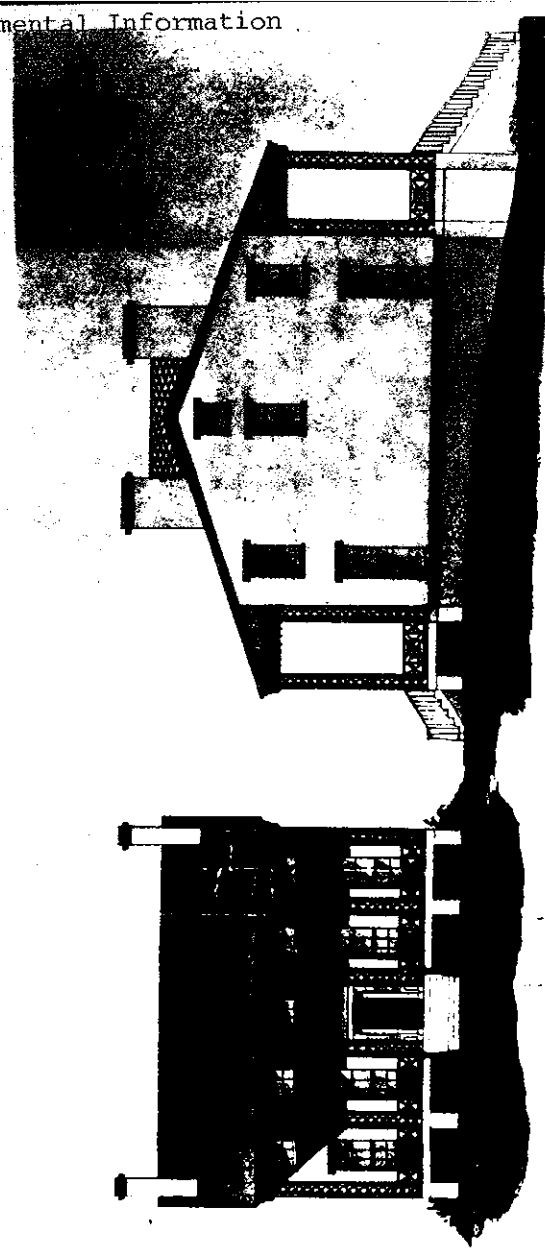
Vertical Files, Facilities Engineering Office. Records of recent repairs to the building.

2. Secondary and unpublished sources.

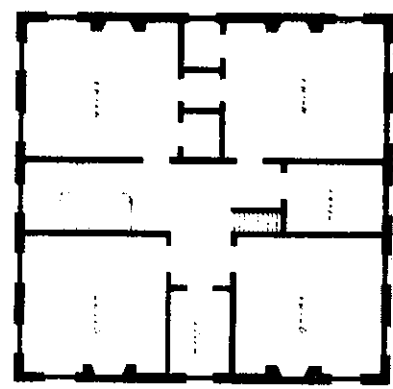
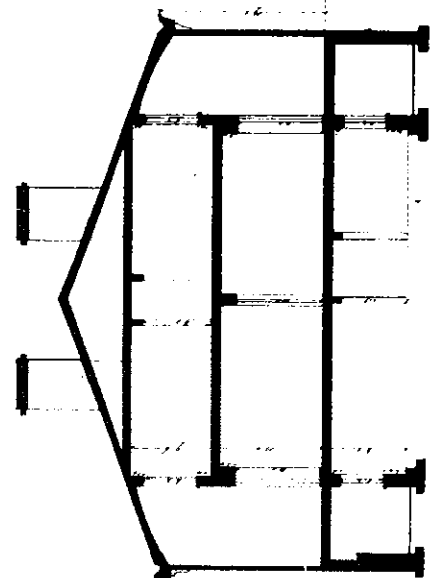
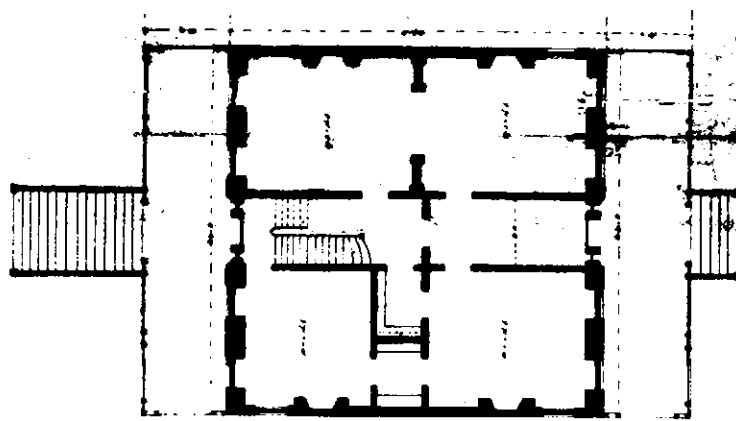
Romaine, Laurence B. "Martin E. Thompson (ca. 1786-1877): A Reconstruction of His Architectural Career from His Account Book." Bulletin of the New York Public Library, vol. 66, #5, May 1962, pp. 281-289.

Surgeon General's Office. A Report on Barracks and Hospitals With Descriptions of Military Posts. Circular No. 4. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1870, pp. 24-31.

_____. A Report on the Hygiene of the United States Army, With Descriptions of Military Posts. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1875, pp. 15-20.



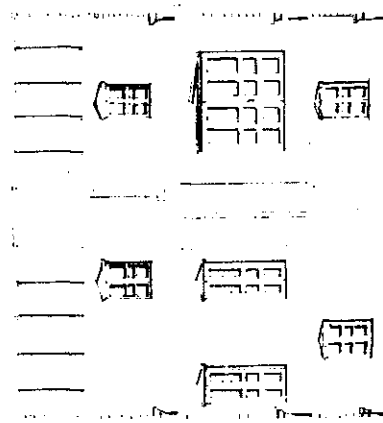
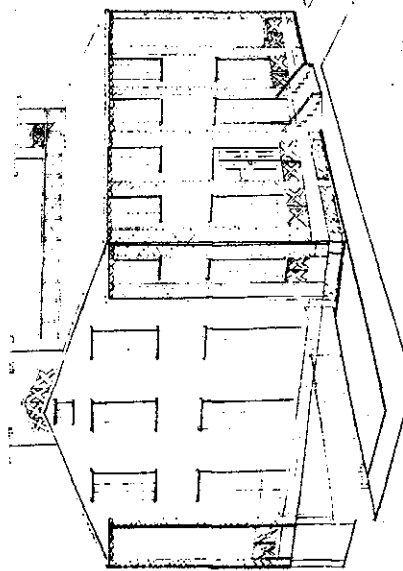
*Commanding Officer's Quarters
No. 1 Submarine No. 1*



*Second Story
Carlin E. Thompson Architect
New York*

QUARTERS 1

Plate 1
Photocopy of Drawing of Building #1, Governors Island, N.Y.
National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch
Record Group 77-Miscellaneous Forts File, Series A, #5
Plans of Second, First and Basement Floors and Elevations
Drawn by Martin E. Thompson, 1940



This and the accompanying drawings were furnished by the New York State Engineer's Office, Albany, N.Y.

Plate 2

Photocopy of Drawing of Building #1
National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch
Record Group 77-Miscellaneous Forts File
Fort Jay, New York
Plans of First Floor and Elevations
Unknown Delineator, January 24, 1871



Plate 3
Reprint of Photograph of Building #1
U.S. Coast Guard, Support Center, New York
Special Services Office, Governors Island, N.Y.
View of the West Front
Unknown Photographer, 1886-ca. 1918

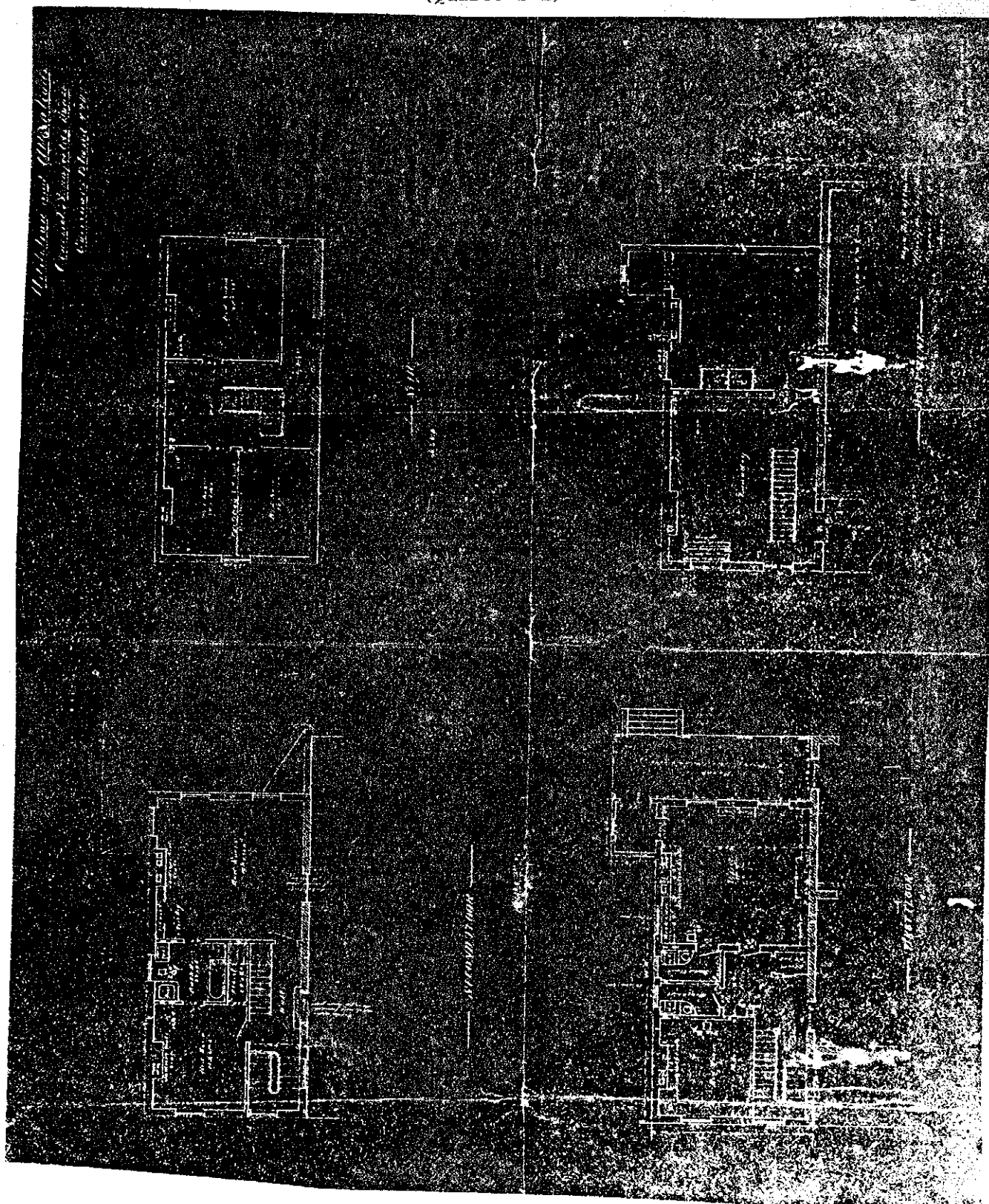


Plate 4

Photocopy of Drawing of Building #1
 National Archives, Record Group 92
 Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General
 Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1890
 "Plans-Additions, Gen. Schofield House"
 Unknown Delineator and Date

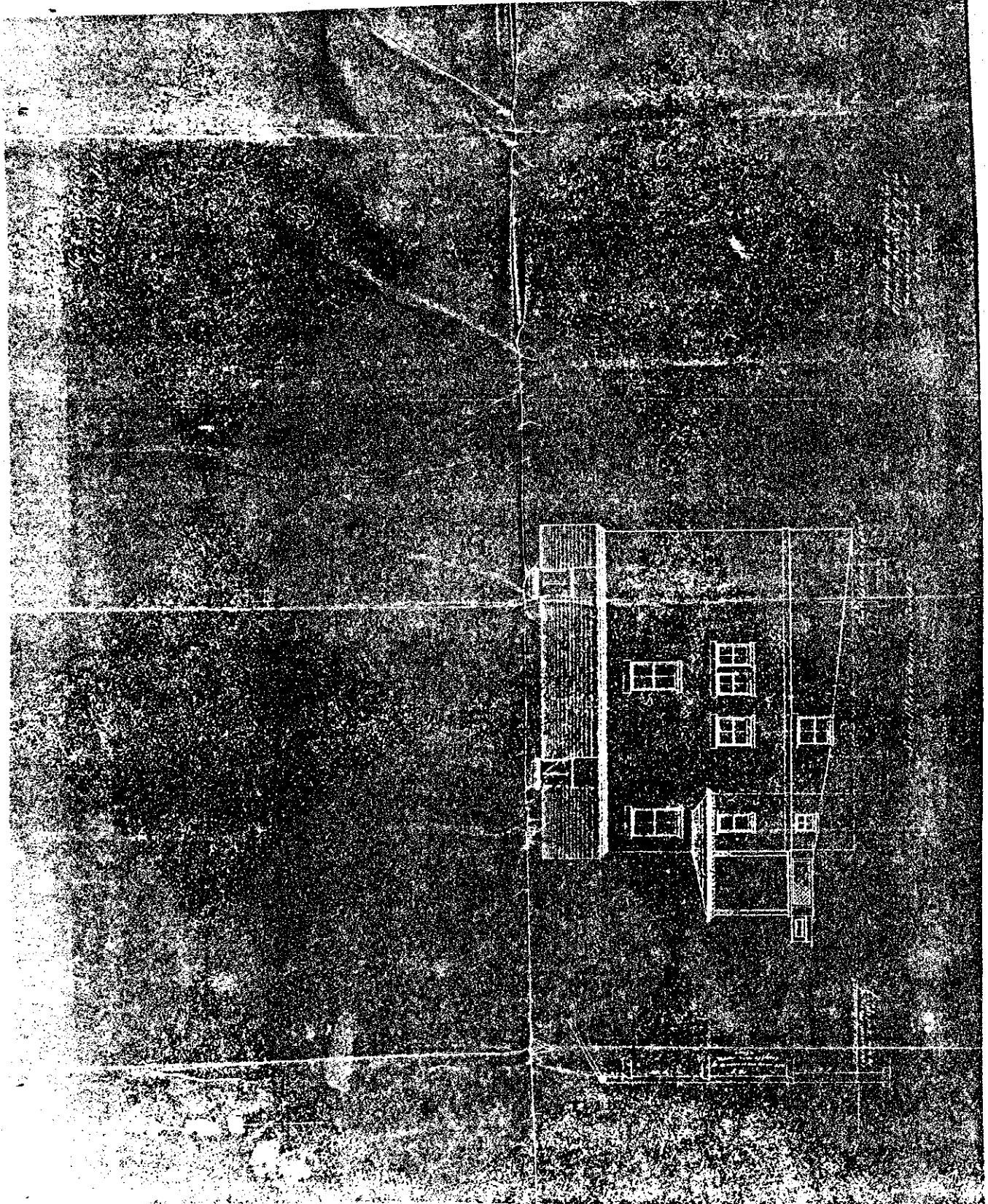


Plate 5

Photocopy of Drawing of Building #1
National Archives, Record Group 92
Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General
Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1890
"Plans-Additions, Gen. Schofield House"
Unknown Delineator and Date

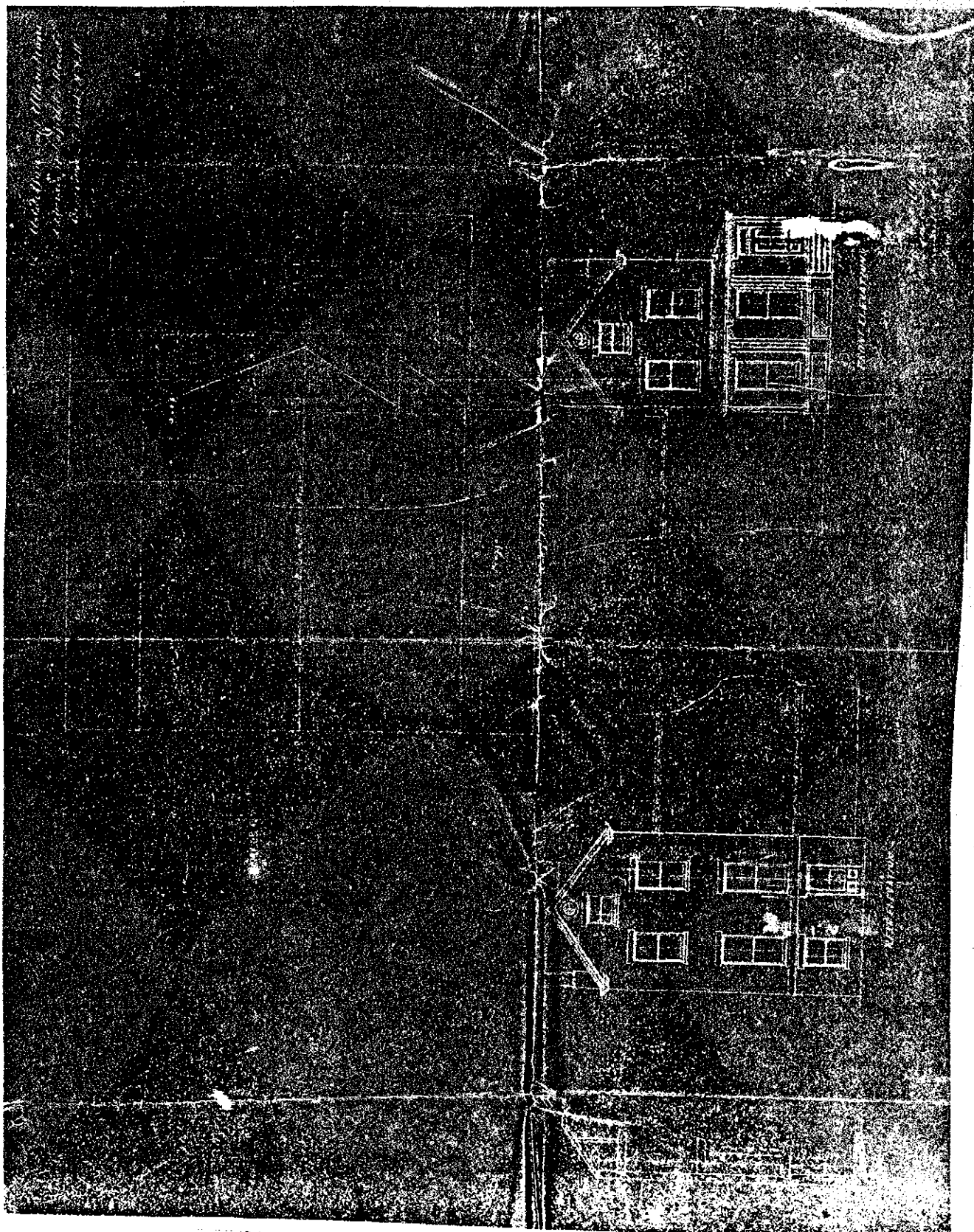


Plate 6
Photocopy of Drawing of Building #1
National Archives, Record Group 92
Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General
Consolidated Correspondence File, 1794-1890
"Plans-Additions, Gen. Schofield House"
Unknown Delineator and Date

GOVERNORS ISLAND
COMMANDING OFFICER'S
QUARTERS (Quarters 1)
HABS No. NY-5715-3
(Page 22)

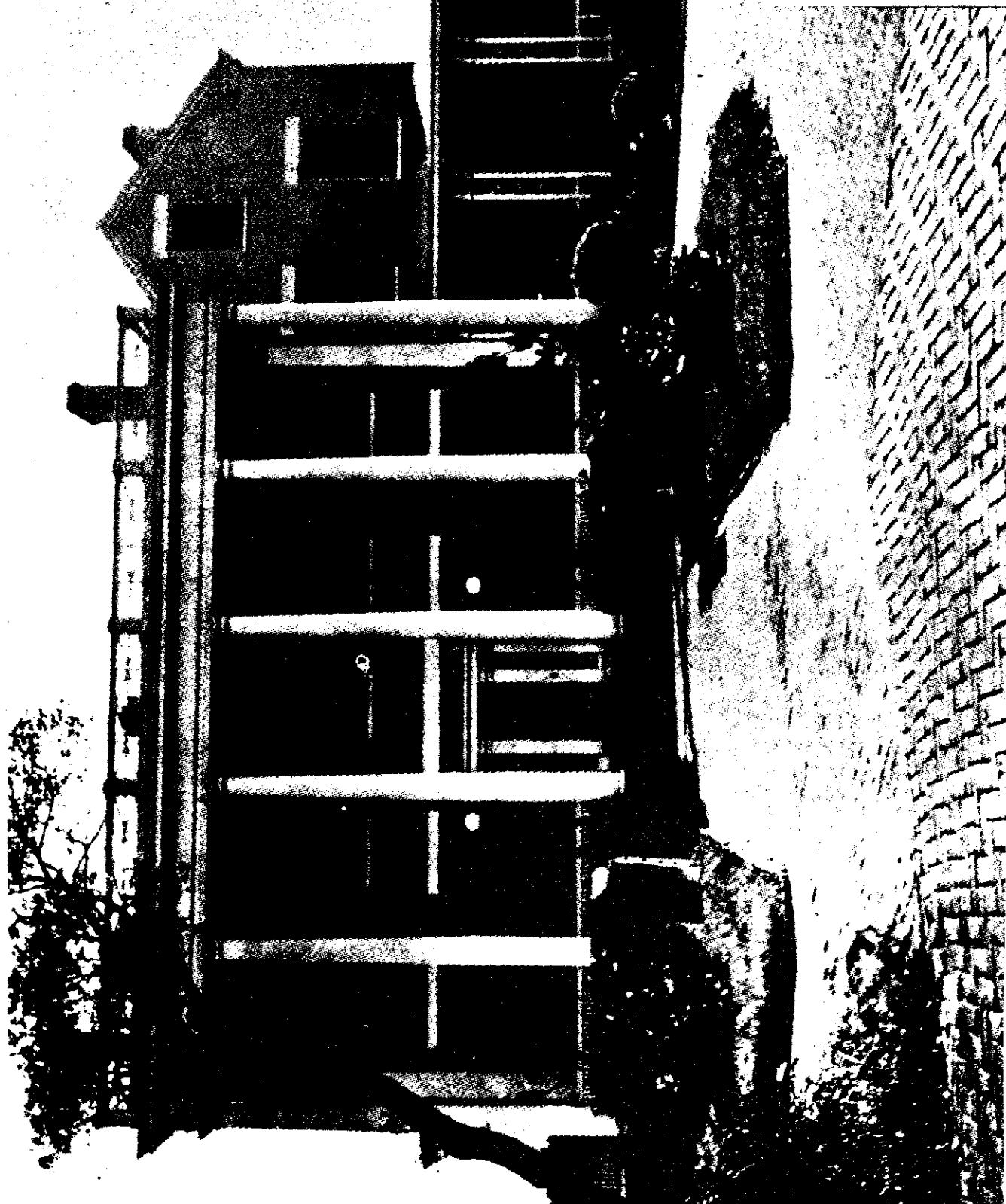


Plate 7
Reprint of Photograph of Building #1
U.S. Coast Guard, Support Center, New York
Special Services Office, Governors Island, N.Y.
View of the West Front
Unknown Photographer, ca. 1918-1936

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) at the request of the United States Coast Guard, Third Coast Guard District, Governors Island, New York, who funded the project. The field work was accomplished during the summers of 1982 and 1983. The historic structures inventory, a National Historic Landmark District nomination and the documentation of five properties were completed in 1984. A three-volume report and inventory cards containing the results of the historic structures inventory have been transmitted to the Library of Congress as field records under HABS No. NY-5715. The National Historic Landmark District nomination was submitted and acted upon favorably by the National Park System Advisory Board in October of 1984.

Sally Kress Tompkins, Deputy Chief of HABS/HAER, was project manager. John Burns, AIA and S. Allen Chambers both of the HABS staff provided technical assistance and review; Jet Lowe, HAER staff photographer, completed the large format photography; Blanche Higgins, historian, and David Broderson of Cornell University completed the historic structures inventory during the summer of 1982; Barbara Hightower, historian, developed the HABS documentation during the summer of 1983; Karin Madison of the HABS/HAER staff assisted in the production of the report and provided photographic control. Paige George of the University of Virginia did the Governors Island map and title sheet. Jay Silberman, Environmental Specialist, District Planning Office, Third Coast Guard District, Governors Island, served as manager and coordinator of the project for the U.S. Coast Guard.